

Maryland Numismatist

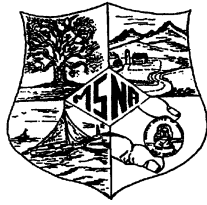


The King of Patagonia



Summer, 2015 Volume 43 – No. 2

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

<http://mdstatenumisassn.org>

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Table of Contents

Officer Listing	2
President's Message	4
Exhibit Results in Baltimore	6
The King of Patagonia	8
Silver Half Dollars – Just the Proofs, Please	14
Local News	18
What's Your Sign? (Zodiac-themed medals)	20
Membership Renewal and Application	25
Maryland Coin Show Dates	26
Club Member Listing	27
Advertising Rates	27

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President's Message



As winter changes to summer, I want to know what happened to spring? When March goes out like a lamb and April showers bring May flowers, it seems that we went from the frigid cold to the humid summer without a break. People may want to be outside during the summer but the humidity forces us indoors to cool off with air conditioning. Thus, the summer is a good time for us to get re-connected to numismatics. After all, what better way to pass a little indoor time than to take some time and visit a local coin show? If you are looking for a list of shows in Maryland and national shows, visit our website (<http://bit.ly/MDcoinShows>) to check out the list our webmaster helps maintain. Contact our webmaster for corrections.

The two aspects that make coin collecting fun are the hunt and talking about the hunt. Our clubs are one place to talk about the hunt. If you have not attended your local club meeting in a while, why not give it another try? Bring a friend and make it an even better event. Another way to be with more collectors is to look beyond Maryland to active communities in neighboring regions. Both the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) and Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) are a comfortable drive from Maryland. Both have supported MSNA through advertising in our journal and have provided support at ANA-sponsored shows when our members could not attend. MSNA members can support PAN and VNA by attending their shows (suburban Pittsburgh and Fredericksburg, respectively), talking with their members, and seeing if there are ways we can all work together. It might make for a stronger mid-Atlantic collecting community if we could join forces and create more opportunities for the hobby.

We are also looking for help with increasing participation in Maryland. As Maryland's central organization, we should be able to provide support for local clubs and bring everyone together in numismatic camaraderie. To do this, we are going to need your help. What would you like for MSNA to do? How can we support local clubs, and bring everyone together in a meaningful way? Is there something we can add to the Whitman shows to add to your club's collecting enjoyment? If you have any ideas or comments, please contact me (scott@barman.ws) or any board member and let us know what is on your mind.



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Exhibit Results in Baltimore

The MSNA exhibit area at the Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo in March held four exhibits by three exhibitors.



Best of Show (1/10 oz. gold eagle): *Boy For Sale? Middle Eastern Ingots for the Redemption of the Firstborn Son* by Simcha Kuritzky. This exhibit was significantly re-worked since its 2013 showing when it included recent medals and coins from Britain, the United States, and Israel.



Master (1/10 oz. platinum eagle): *U.S. Mint: The POTUS Appreciation Medal Series* by Darryl Gomez. This was the first time Mr. Gomez exhibited, though the same exhibit took second place in medals at the PAN Show in Pittsburgh in May.



Appreciation Award of a one ounce silver 1988 MSNA medal went to Exhibit Chairman Bryce Doxzon for his non-competitive exhibit *The Dickey Mill Centennial Medal*. The Exhibit Chairman is not eligible to compete.

The exhibit *A Set of Dutch-Israel Gold Fantasy Coins* by Simcha Kuritzky was not eligible for an award since there is a limit of one award per exhibitor. Anyone with a decent exhibit could have taken third place and won a one-twentieth ounce gold coin. Consider exhibiting next year!

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- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values



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The King of Patagonia

by Ricardo Méndez Barozzi

The French Empire lost many of its colonies when Napoleon was defeated in 1815. The French spent the next century rebuilding their colonial empire, starting with the colonization of Algeria in 1830. In the mid-Nineteenth Century, the Second Empire under Napoleon III wanted to expand its influence in Latin America. In addition to the short-lived attempt to place Maximilian of Austria in control of Mexico, there were repeated remarks published in European newspapers, specially on September 27, 1861 in *Le Temps* and on June 13, 1863 in *L'Indépendance Belge*, where officials supported Prince Orélie Antoine de Tounens' proposal to establish a colony in Patagonia, part of Chile and Argentina.

Aurelio Antonio de Tounens was born in France in 1825. He was a lawyer, practicing in the Perigeux before the Commercial Court. On August 28, 1858, Aurelio Antonio de Tounens disembarked in Coquimbo, northern Chile. He spent a year and a half there, learning about indigenous customs and hatching his plan to bring the area under French control.

In October 1860, he traveled to the banks of the Imperial River, south of Valdivia, where the Cacique Quilapán of the Araucanians acceded to power on the death of his father. Tribal prophets had predicted that the Araucanians would get independence from Chile when they adopted a white man as their head. This prophecy smoothed obstacles for Tounens, who befriended local Indian chiefs, especially Quilapán. On November 17, 1860, the chieftains of the various tribes, presided over by Quilapán, proclaimed Prince Orélie Antoine de Tounens King of a constitutional and hereditary monarchy in Araucania.

Although the new kingdom included the vast strip running from the Bío-Bío River to the Gulf of Reloncavi, the new monarch wanted to expand his sovereignty, so three days later, on November 20, he declared himself King of Patagonia with an identical ceremony, but with tribal leaders from that area. Then he was satisfied because his kingdom, which was located in the south of the Negro River and bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, had a total area of about 753,000 square kilometers or 291,000 square miles.

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Area ruled by Orélie Antoine de Tounens is near the top, bordered in black.

The King's conduct evinced rapid action: he dictated the Constitution, with its foundation in that of the first French Republic, he created the symbols of nationality, including a flag and coat of arms. The flag consisted of green, blue and white horizontal stripes, while the arms were composed of a quartered shield with figures representing freedom, justice,

agriculture, and commerce. For lack of resources, he left for later the creation of a national currency. This extensive work was completed and Quilapán was commissioned to maintain order in the kingdom. After a brief stay in Santiago de Chile, King Orélie decided to explore his vast domains, and allow the heads of the various tribes to pay him homage.

Celebrating the entire time, the King's entourage reached the shores of Malleco River on January 5, 1862. According to his memoirs, Orélie I was resting under an apple tree when several men from the Chilean army imprisoned him. Brought to trial on July 19, 1862 the judge dismissed the proceedings on the grounds that the defendant was not in his right mind, ordering that he be confined in the sanitarium of Santiago. The French Consul arranged instead for passage on the warship *Dugway Trouin* bound for France.

Once in Paris, he published his memoirs in 1863 in which he reaffirmed his rights to the crown of Araucania and Patagonia. He claimed his rule was consecrated by the free suffrage of both countries. Orélie stayed in Paris seven years, all the while increasing his popularity and dreaming of return to his kingdom. He seemed to be successful in lobbying the French government for support, and returned to South America in the second half of 1869. The French warship *D'Entrescateurs* let him off in the Patagonian Cape San Antonio.

Upon arrival, Orélie was protected by the Pampas caciques, as they knew he was Quilapán's friend, the undisputed head of the tribes who had raised arms against the Chilean government. After a long eventful journey, the King met up with Quilapán, and took an active part in the

insurrection. The successes of Chilean General Pinto and the knowledge that Colonel Cornelio Saavedra had a price on his head forced Orélie I to abandon his kingdom and bid farewell to Quilapán.

In July 1871, he travelled through Buenos Aires and Montevideo en route to France and his second exile. In recent centuries, many emperors or kings deposed from their thrones tried, with more or less success, to recover them, but only Orélie managed a third attempt. Indeed, living again in Paris, he began a restoration campaign with the help of Mahon de Monhagan, a French former state employee who published a booklet *The King of Arauco*. He also got the support of an English banker, James Michaels, and the three founded the company New France. The matter was mentioned in several European newspapers such as *Le Gaulois* in Paris and *Pall Mall Gazette* in London. Orélie arranged a loan, chartered two ships, granted titles of nobility, instituted the Royal Order of the Southern Cross, and coined currency in 1874.



There are copper coins of 30mm diameter, smooth edge. The legend is ORELIE ANTOINE D'ROI ET PATAGONIE ARAUCANIA, and in the center is a crowned shield in quarters, surrounded by 27 stars. The reverse reads NOUVELLE FRANCE, (New France in French) in the center is DOS CENTAVOS (two cents in Spanish), with eleven stars above, a dash below and beneath that 1874 and two crossed palm branches.

There are also silver pesos that are 37mm and 24.5g (similar to the silver Argentine peso of 1881-3). They look very similar to the 2 cent but the denomination is either spelled out UN or represented by 1, and appears either very large or of medium size. These pieces also come with plain or reeded edges, and are cataloged in *Unusual World Coins* under Araucania X1 through X14. Although it is believed that these issues could be later fabrications, as the adventurer did not have the means to produce so many coins and these appeared in large numbers in the early

Twentieth Century at numismatic fairs in Berlin and Budapest, they are very rare pieces that are seldom seen in the market.

Everything was ready for the third attempt in 1876 when Alberto Blest Gana, Minister of Chile in Paris, sent letters of protest to the foreign ministers of Britain and France. The expedition of conquest collapsed. Undeterred from pursuing his chimera, the King of Patagonia published the book *Araucania* in Bordeaux in 1878. He died suddenly in Tourtoirac in late 1878.

He was succeeded on the throne by Gustavo Laviardé Achilles (Achilles I), cousin of Orélie, who publicized his predecessor's adventures until his death on March 30, 1902. The title has passed on for several generations. Philippe Boiry, who only passed away in 2014, visited Argentina and Chile on several occasions and proclaimed the Mapuche independent from both countries. He also authorized an extensive commemorative coinage starting in 1988, denominated in pesos are soberanos. The current king is Antoine IV.

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Silver Half Dollars – Just the Proofs, Please

By Mark Benvenuto, MSNA #R-825

Let's be honest with ourselves: when it comes to collecting good coins, we all have some kind of soft spot for the proofs. Admittedly, they have no serious history of use to them, as they have not ever circulated in any way. But they look great! They are the best that any mint has to offer. And when it comes to proofs, big ones can be more fun than small ones, simply because we all like the heft of a big coin in the hand. With these two simple truths in mind, let's take a peek at just what sorts of proof half dollars are available to an eager collector.

Kennedy halves, from 1992 to the present

Although the United States Mint had been pounding out a few million proof sets per year for decades, and although the Kennedy design had been on the fifty-cent piece since 1964, it was 1992 when the fine folks at the San Francisco Mint got around to producing the halves in silver once again. The output has been pretty steady since then, with some years dipping just below 1 million proofs, and several others having official Mint tallies that are considerably higher. For anyone thinking of building a collection of this type of modern silver, the very good news is that most can be obtained in grades such as PF-68 or even PF-69 for as low as \$25. The 2012 costs more, but even that date isn't out of reach.

1964 Kennedy half



photo courtesy of goldeneagle.coin.com

For twenty-eight years, the lone Kennedy half that was made of 90% silver was the 1964, and thus it earns something of a place by itself. These always cost somewhat more than the more recent silver proofs – especially in those insanely high grades. But

a PF-65 or PF-66 specimen will still ring in at about \$25. All in all, that's not too bad.

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Franklin half dollars



photo courtesy of Ron Guth

did start coming out of the Mint in 1950. There were not mountains of them – at least not right away – but there were over 50K that first year. By 1953 the number of proofs had risen to 128,800, and by 1957 the 1 million mark was surpassed. And in 1961 the number of proofs jumped beyond 3 million. All things considered, that's a lot of proofs.

The first few years of the proof Franklin halves will obviously cost the most, simply because their overall numbers are lower. But through the whole series one can find proofs in the rather odd grade of PF63. A relatively low grade like this does not automatically mean the coin was poorly struck or started out with some problem. Rather, it goes back to the fact that the first proofs were sold in rather flimsy plastic pockets, which themselves did little to protect the coins.

Whatever grade of proof a person looks at though, the first Franklin proof that we might call inexpensive is going to be the 1954. An example of that date in PF65 runs for significantly less than \$100. Every date from the 1957 to the 1963 can be obtained in this grade for anywhere from \$30 - \$50. Thus almost every Franklin proof can be considered pretty affordable. Sure, the first four years will cost a few hundred dollars each, which may be more than we wish to pay. But the final ten years of these proofs should make great additions to a collection at very good prices.

Walking Liberty half dollar



*photo courtesy
of Walking
Liberty.US*

The Walking Liberty half dollar series has been a favorite of collectors for decades now, has seen its design reused on the one-ounce silver Eagle, and generally is considered one of the most beautiful of United States coins.

In the midst of all this are seven dates – 1936 to 1942 – that saw proof mintages. Those mintages are never high, with the lowest being the 1936 at 3,901 coins, and the highest being the 1942 at 21,120 coins. As might be expected, they are not encountered all that often. Yet surprisingly, each date lists in most of the standard price listings at less than \$1,000 in grades such as PF64, except for the very expensive 1936. While a thousand dollars may at first glance seem like a ridiculous amount of money for a single fifty-cent piece, when one considers just how few of these there are in the first place, it may actually not be bad at all. And if you can land one of these beauties, it may very well end up being the crown jewel of a collection.

Barber half dollars



photo courtesy of Northeast Numismatics

Every single year that the Barber half dollars were minted there were some proofs made as well. Only in 1892 did the total number exceed one thousand pieces, which means these are rare coins by any stretch of the imagination.

Yet almost every one of these proofs list at about \$2,000 in the PF64 grade – if you can find them!

If ever there has been hard evidence that the Walking Liberty halves are more avidly collected than the Barber halves, this has to be it. Look back at the just-mentioned totals for the Walkers, and their prices, then do the same for the Barbers. The older design is far less common, yet only about twice as expensive. If we can afford a Barber proof half, even if we have to save up for it, well that would indeed be a fantastic item to add to any collection.

Conclusion

We can certainly go back even farther than the Barber half dollar series when looking for proofs, but not without some serious outlay. For example, Mr. Gobrecht's Seated Liberty design has graced an enormous number of half dollars, some of them proofs. But the price tags attached to them today can be meteorically high. So for the moment we should perhaps stop here, and content ourselves with four great designs, and a lot of proof possibilities. Good luck finding some to call your own.

Local News

The **Washington Numismatic Society** showed an ANA video by J. Bobbe on Spence's Conder Tokens in March, and another video by Russell Sears on Baltimore fiscal paper in March. For May, MSNA editor **Simcha Kuritzky** spoke on Viennese calendar medals.

The **Montgomery County Coin Club** showed the ANA video, "Banknotes of the Afterlife" by Walter Ostromecki in March. The April program was by President Ken Swab on a club tour of the Renaissance medals room at the National Gallery of Art. In May, they hosted Jesse Stiller, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) Historian, who spoke on the history of that obscure Treasury bureau.

MSNA Secretary **Bryce Doxzon** and Treasurer **Simcha Kuritzky** represented their state organization north of the Mason-Dixon Line by taking awards exhibiting at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) Spring Show in May. Simcha won first prize in exonomia with *Henrietta Szold and Her Legacy: Hadassah and Youth Aliyah*, and second place in world coins with *Numismatic Polygons*. Bryce won third place in medals with *1860: A Medallion Tale of "Three Men Lost"* (losers of the presidential election). PAN Exhibit Chairman Thomas Corey, who is now a MSNA life member, won third place in world coins with *A Selection of Personifications on Ancient Roman Silver Coins*.



For coin week, the **Montgomery County Coin Club** put in the above display in the Davis Library in Kensington. It contained both specific information and medals from world's fairs (to match the coin week theme), and general information on numismatics for the general public.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West MD	Belmar, MR Catonsville	
Third	Colonial (some- times), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc.		Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County	Bowie	Middle River (MR)	MSNA Board

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What's Your Sign?

Part Twenty- Seven: Sex Position Tokens Detail part 1

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

This starts the list of different dies used to produce the peep show tokens. These tokens are usually found in yellow brass or red bronze, and I've also seen some plated either with nickel or mercury. In the descriptions below, the description is followed by a (b) for yellow brass, (c) for red copper or bronze, and (w) for a white metal plating. I am defining the zodiac sign as the obverse and sex scene as the reverse. Some of the die differences may just be due to die wear.



Obv #1



Obv #2



Obv #3



Rev #1



Rev #2



Rev #3

Aries

1. Obv. Aries thin letters, medium denticles. Rev. Fearless thick letters, high relief (b)
2. Obv. Aries thin letters, large denticles. Rev. Fearless thin letters, low relief (c)
3. Obv. Aries thick letters, wide spacing between denticles and letters. Rev. Fearless wide spacing between denticles and letters (b)



Obv #1



Obv #2



Obv #4



Rev #1



Rev #2



Rev #3



Rev #4

Taurus

1. Obv. Taurus bull fills out obverse, ear close to dots, Rev. Creative high relief, guy has full hair, strong leaves and copyright (b)
2. Obv. Taurus bull is large but limbs are thin, ear touches dot, Rev. #2 Creative low relief, guy has flat hair, strong leaves and copyright (b)
3. Obv. Like #2, Rev. Creative guy's hair is well defined, thin leaves (c)
4. Obv. Taurus bull is small, wide spacing between denticles and letters. Rev. Creative thick denticles, wide space between denticles and letters (b)



Obv #1



Obv #2



Obv #4



Rev #1



Rev #2



Rev #3



Rev #4

Gemini

1. Obv. Gemini large high relief twins, hand at left touches denticles, Rev. Superior large figures, very little space between letters and man's back, dots and man's head. (b)
2. Obv. Gemini medium twins, hand does not reach denticles, Rev. Superior medium figures, more space between letters/dots and the man (c)
3. Obv. Like #2, Rev. Aware, large figures, little space between dots and denticles, woman's face ill defined. (b)

4. Obv. Gemini small twins, foot distant from "20", Rev. Aware, small figures, more space between dots and denticles, woman's face is visible (b and c)



Obv #1



Obv #2



Obv #3



Obv #4



Obv #5



Obv #6



Rev #1



Rev #2



Rev #3



Rev #5

Cancer

1. Obv. Cancer, well-defined crab, large and thick denticles, Rev. Versatile, very large dots, man's neck not visible (b)

2. Obv. Cancer, claws thick but legs spindly, thin denticles, Rev. Versatile, large figures, man's head almost touches dots, thick letters (b).

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3. Obv. Cancer, claws thin, 69 logo elongated, Rev. Versatile, thinner letters, figures, leaves below (b)
4. Obv. Cancer, claws thinner, 69 logo short, Rev. Versatile like #3 (b)
5. Obv. Cancer, small crab, large lettering, Rev. Versatile, dots distant from the denticles (c)
6. Obv. Cancer, small crab, small lettering, Rev. Versatile like #5 (c)



Obv #1



Obv #2



Obv #3



Obv #4



Rev #1



Rev #2



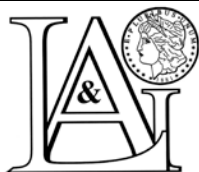
Rev #3



Rev #4

Leo

1. Obv. Leo large lion whose head enters circle of dots, Rev. Friendly large lettering and dots (b)
2. Obv. Leo medium lion, head inside dot circle, small paw at bottom by July, Rev. Friendly smaller dots but still near border, man's head wide, foot does not touch dot (c)
3. Obv. Leo medium lion, head inside dot circle, large paw at bottom by July, Rev. Friendly as #2 except man's head thin, foot touches dot (b)



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4. Obv. Leo small lion, dots away from edge, Rev. Friendly smaller figures, thin dots far from border (c)



Obv #1



Obv #2



Obv #3



Obv #4



Obv #5



Obv #6



Rev #1



Rev #2



Rev #3



Rev #4



Rev #5



Rev #6

Virgo

1. Obv Virgo woman facing left, hair divides dots 6 above 4 below, thick lettering and denticles, Rev. Ingenious large dots, denticles and thick © symbol (b)

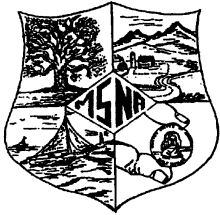
2. Obv Virgo woman facing forward, hair only flowing to the right, hair divides dots 4 above 6 below, one nipple uncovered, weak denticles. leaves thick Rev. Ingenious low relief dots and denticles, thin © symbol, faces ill defined (b)

3. Virgo like #2 but strong denticles, Rev like #2 but dots really weak and © symbol barely visible

4. Obv Virgo like #3 but hair visible to left of head, leaves thin Rev. Ingenious high relief dots, faces well defined (b)

5. Obv Virgo like #4 but leaves on branch thin and short, Rev like #4 but weaker dots and denticles, dots at left oval shaped (b)

6. Obv. Virgo like #2 but denticles thick and lettering small, Rev wide gap between dots and outer border (c)



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P. O. Box 13504
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Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

23-24 May – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

30 May – Belmar Bi-Annual Coin Show, Grove Church Hall, 50 East Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, MD. 9-3.

5-6 June – Battlefield Coin Show, Grange Hall, 1 South 8th Alley, New Market, MD; 9:30-4:30.

14 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

14 June – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

16-19 July – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

25 July – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

22 Aug. – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

23 Aug. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD; 9-4.

30 Aug. – Catonsville Coin Club Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1010 Frederick Road (1 mile from I-695), Catonsville, MD; 10-4.


13 Sep. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

4 Oct. – Westminster Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

9-10 Oct. – Battlefield Coin Show, Grange Hall, 1 South 8th Alley, New Market, MD; 9:30-4:30.

24-25 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasures Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Sat. 9-6; Sun. 9-4.

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